Pathwork Lecture 99: Falsified Impressions of Parents: Their Cause and Cure

1996 Edition, Original Given March 2, 1962

This lecture is given in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Format** of the lecture, and in that sense this is **my interpretation** of the **intent** of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and I ask you to ponder the words for your own interpretation. I did this Devotional Format so I can take the words into my heart, phrase by phrase, much as I would in reading poetry – that is, **devotionally**.

The blessings to me in developing this format have been truly profound, and my wish is that this Devotional Format will be a blessing to others. I invite you to slowly read and ponder this format of the text – with an open heart to experience the Guide's Presence and Love emerging from among the words such that the wisdom comes to LIVE you.

For clarity: The **original text** is in **bold and** *italicized*. [My adds of commentary/clarification/interpretation are in brackets, italicized, and <u>not</u> bolded.] To learn more of my Devotional Format and see the lectures I have done in this way, go to https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/

Gary Vollbracht

| \P | Content |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 03 | |
| | Greetings, |
| | my dearest, dearest friends. |
| | God bless |
| | each one of you. |
| | Blessed are |
| | • your works, |
| | • your thoughts, |
| | • your endeavors, |
| | • your lives, and |
| | • even your mistakes. |
| | For they [i.e., your mistakes] too |
| | may become |
| | the great keys |
| | to |
| | • freedom and |
| | • reality and |
| | • love. |
| | |

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04
              Once again,
                   let us talk about love.
                       Let us remember
                          that anyone
                               without love
                                  is withering away.
              The love you
                  receive
                       is not [, however,]
                          the most important,
              you need
                  the love force
                       in your heart;
                          it is
                              your spiritual life-blood.
              This [i.e., the love force in your heart]
                  is the driving force –
                       in a
                          • good and
                          • healthy
                              sense –
                                  that gives
                                      meaning
                                         to life.
              Without
                   the love-capacity
                       your life
                          will be
                              • empty,
                              • meaningless,
                              • shallow.
05
              You all know,
                  and some of you may be
                       very much
                          aware,
                              that deep down in your soul
                                 you have a craving
                                      to be loved.
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When this craving [to be loved]
    reaches your awareness,
         it is often
            confused with
                your capacity
                   to
                        love.
However, the two [i.e., your craving to be loved and your capacity to love]
    are entirely different.
A human being
    can often be
         consciously
            aware of his or her need
                to be loved,
                   and yet
                        the heart
                           is devoid of loving.
For
    • the greater
        the need [to be loved],
    • the more it is possible
         that you are still
            • self-involved,
            • withdrawn,
            • fearful,
            • anxious,
            • bound, and
            • blind to the other person.
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The more
    you are in
         • anxiety,
         • bondage, and
         • dependency,
the less
    you are able
         • to love
         • to open that inner channel
            through which the
                • life and
                • love
                   force
                       can
                          • flow and
                          • lubricate your soul,
                               so to speak.
Without
    this [love] force,
        inner drought
            cannot be prevented.
This dryness of soul
    makes you
        feel
           that your life
                is senseless,
                   regardless of
                       the worthiness of
                          your activities.
Only when
    this channel to love
        is unclogged
            will you
                • become free and
                • fulfill
                   your personal needs.
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| 06 | |
|----|---|
| | I have shown you |
| | many ways |
| | to unclog this channel [to love]. |
| | These processes [by which you can unclog your channel to love] |
| | are thought by some of you |
| | to mean something |
| | other than |
| | spiritual development; |
| | [instead] you call it |
| | psychological search. |
| | Again and again, |
| | you make the error |
| | of believing that |
| | • the spiritual |
| | and |
| | • the psychological |
| | are two different approaches. |
| | Forgetting these terms [i.e., forgetting the terms "spiritual" and "psychological"] |
| | for the moment, |
| | you will understand that |
| | without resolving |
| | so-called psychological problems, |
| | you cannot become |
| | fully capable of |
| | loving. |
| 07 | |
| | Let us now approach |
| | your love capacity |
| | from still another angle, |
| | one we have touched upon in the past only in a cursory way. |
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We all know that
    the child's first impressions
         come from
            its first environment,
                in which
                   • the parents or
                   • their substitutes
                       predominate,
                           including anyone
                               who plays an important role in the child's life.
Since
    the child's
         capacity to evaluate
            is limited,
                its [i.e., the child's]
                   emotional experience
                       gleaned from the parents
                           is very distorted.
In the crassest case,
    the child may
         emotionally
            experience
                the parents
                   as either
                        • good
                           or bad,
                        • strong
                           or weak,
                        • admirable
                           or despicable.
But even if
    the experience
         is not so extreme,
            the child focuses
                only
                   on certain
                        aspects or
                        • tendencies
                           of the parents,
                while
                   the rest of their personality
                        is not even noticed.
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These
                   limited impressions [of the parents]
                       falsify the picture.
               The image
                   you carry of them [i.e., the image you carry of your parents],
                        often unconsciously,
                           may be
                               quite contrary to
                                  your
                                       intellectual
                                          • view or
                                          • opinion,
              but it [i.e., the image your carry of your parents]
                   nevertheless
                        • influences your
                           • actions and
                        • governs your
                           • reactions
                               • to life,
                               • to others, and
                               • to yourself.
              It [i.e., the image you carry of your parents]
                   also
                        clogs up the channel
                           that enables you to
                               • love and
                               • experience others in their reality,
                                       while you are
                                          centered
                                              in your own real self,
                                                 which is
                                                      your reality.
08
               The child's
                   fragmented impression of reality
                        causes distortions
                           which influence
                               the way you relate later
                                  • to others and
                                  • to yourself.
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```
You can be sure that
                  there is a connection
                       between
                          • the most problematic area of your life
                          • your perception of
                              • either one [parent] or
                              • both parents, or
                              • someone else in your early surroundings.
              A certain impression of
                  another
                       • person or
                       • persons
                          is imprinted upon
                              your soul,
                                  and you
                                      continue reacting to others
                                        from this
                                             • fragmentary and
                                             • falsified
                                                imprint.
09
              The remedy
                  is first
                       to become aware of
                          what you
                              really feel
                                 about
                                      • all members of your family, or
                                      • others who were important to you.
              Analyze
                  this
                       • feeling impression
              and compare it [i.e., compare this feeling impression]
                  with your
                       • intellectual view.
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Then begin to consider
                  whether your impression of them [i.e., your feeling impression of your parents]
                       is perhaps
                         just a
                              • fragmented,
                              • limited
                                 aspect
                                     of a whole person.
10
              When you
                  feel
                       • hurt or
                       angry
                          about one or both parents,
                              do you,
                                 in your anger,
                                     perceive them as
                                        • groping,
                                        • vulnerable,
                                        • blind, and
                                        • troubled
                                             humans?
              Or
                  do they take on an
                       • awesome,
                       • strange,
                       • fixed, and therefore
                       • almost inhuman
                         form
                              in your emotional life?
              Do they seem
                  • artificial,
                  • robot-like,
                  • lacking the complexity of the human personality?
              Think about
                  • the term
                       human being and
                  • what it [i.e. what the term "human being"]
                       really means.
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Does it [i.e., does the term "human being"]
                  not mean
                       a variety of
                          often contradictory
                              aspects?
              Can a person be -
                  if you must choose these terms -
                       • good
                          in one way
                    and
                       • bad
                          in another?
              Can he or she be
                       • reliable
                          in one way
                    and
                       • unreliable
                          in another,
                  both
                       • selfish
                    and also
                       • unselfish?
11
              Yet
                  the child in you
                       does not perceive that.
              For the child,
                  it is
                       • either
                          one
                       • or
                          the other
                  but
                       • never both.
              Therefore
                  you still do not perceive
                       the reality of
                         your parent
                              the human being.
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You may know perfectly well
    with your
        intellect
           that people can be
                both
                   • good
                and
                   • bad,
    hut
        emotionally
           you cannot
                experience
                   this truth,
                       particularly
                          not with regard to
                              your parents.
Your
    emotional experience
        is always an
            either/or,
and therefore
    you are not in touch with
        the
            • living,
            • dynamic
                complexity
                   of the human being
                       who was closest to you.
It is most important
    for your own sake
        that your
            • impression and
            • experience
                of this person
                   be as realistic as possible.
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| 12 | |
|----|---|
| 12 | As long as |
| | you are still living with |
| | a falsification [of who your parents really were], |
| | you cannot |
| | cut the tie |
| | that keeps you from |
| | experiencing |
| | • freedom and |
| | • independence. |
| | independence. |
| | You are also |
| | kept |
| | • from loving, |
| | • from finding your true strength. |
| | from finding your true strength. |
| | Oh, [with this falsification of who your parents really were as real human beings] you may have |
| | managed very well [in life] |
| | in many ways, |
| | but where this tie [to this fixed image of who your parents were rather than |
| | experiencing them as the real human beings they really were] |
| | is not dissolved |
| | by seeing |
| | the reality of your parents [as real human beings |
| | with both good and bad qualities], |
| | you will |
| | continue to have problems |
| | that could be resolved |
| | only by unraveling this knot [brought abut by holding to the "either/or" fixed image of who your parents were]. |
| 13 | |
| | The first step [in unraveling this knot brought about by holding to the "either/or" |
| | fixed image of who your parents were] |
| | is to become aware of your distortions. |
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Ask yourself:
                  • "How do I
                       experience
                          my parents?
                  • Do I experience them
                       as [fellow] human beings in
                          • their contradictions,
                          • their blindness,
                          • their often
                              • conflicting,
                              • mixed
                                 motivations?"
              Does the person [perhaps the parent] you may have
                  • feared and

    hated

                       most
                          when you were a child,
              perhaps
                  still exist in you
                       as one who
                          • is invulnerable and
                          • cannot be hurt.
                              just because
                                 he or she
                                      hurt [you in] your vulnerability [as a child]?
              This phantom
                  creates havoc in your life,
                       my friends.
14
              After making the revisions [of your images of and beliefs about your parents,]
                  which constitute
                       the second step [of this process of unraveling this knot brought
                                                    about by holding to the "either/or"
                                                    fixed image of who your parents were],
                          you can become
                              a free human being.
              But how do these revisions [of your fixed images of and beliefs about your parents]
                  take place?
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Try to
    • understand them
        in the fullness of their being.
    • Understand
        • their lives,
        • their
           • inner and
           • outer
                struggles,
        • their own childhood -
               from whatever you know about them.
        • What made them
           what they were,
        • what were
           their own
                • hurts.
                • fears, and
                • frustrations?
    • Understand them
        as one mature human being
           tries to understand another,
                with as much

    detachment and

                   • objectivity, and
    • consider
        as many facets of their being as possible,
           not just those aspects
                that have,
                   unfortunately,
                       singularly affected you.
Your
    • seeing only certain traits and
    • leaving out others
        because you were not affected by them
           always dehumanizes the other person.
```

Begin [this second step of this process, begin revising your images of your parents]

by asking yourself:

really like?"

"What were they [i.e., your parents]

```
15
              Even if you
                  glorify
                       a parent,
                          he or she
                              still becomes
                                 inhuman
                                     from your
                                         exaggerated overglorification.
              Your
                  • fixed and
                  • static
                       view [of seeing in a fixed and static image only those aspects
                              of your parents which are "good" and which you then overglorify],
                          due to the
                              fragmentation [and separating into the various aspects]
                                 of what they [i.e., of what your parents]
                                      really are [rather than seeing each of them as
                                                            a whole human being with both
                                                            "good" and "bad" aspects],
                                 becomes monstrous.
                                      It [i.e., this fixed image of only those "good" aspects of your
                                                    parents, aspects that you then overglorify]
                                          is
                                             • not alive,
                                             • not real.
              Everything
                  you have
                       experienced
                         from [seeing only]
                              those limited ["all good"] traits in them
                                 which to you
                                      constitute
                                         the entire person
                                             may be factually true.
              But
                  the larger truth
                       is missing.
                       Your monster
                          lacks
                              the totality of
                                 the whole human being.
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You
                  cannot understand
                       those traits that have
                          • hurt and
                          • affected
                              you
                                 unless
                                     you see
                                        the wholeness [i.e., the "good" AND the "bad" aspects]
                                             of the person.
              The understanding [of the wholeness of the two persons who were your parents]
                  will dissolve
                       the still hidden
                          • hurt and
                          • anger,
                              • setting you free, and
                              • unclogging the channel
                                 to loving.
16
              You often
                  resist
                       revising
                         your [fixed "all good"] images
                              of your parents.
              You may
                  feel
                       • disloyal and
                       • guilty
                          if you
                              stop glamorizing
                                 an
                                     • adored and
                                     • idolized
                                        parent.
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You [may]
    feel
        it is
            your duty
                as a child
                   to continue to do so [i.e., to continue to glorify your adored and
                                                     idolized parent].
Not glorifying
    your parent
         may be equated with
            • disrespect,
            • contempt,
            • resentment, or
            • hate –
                in your
                   unconscious mind,
                       of course.
Beneath
    this glorification
        there may be
           fear,
                and, under the fear,
                   hate.
Protecting yourself
    from
         facing
         • [and fully feeling]
            this hate
                can mean
                   maintaining
                       the exaggerated glorification,
                          not only
                               • because the world [and sometimes religion]
                                  seems to demand it of you [i.e., demands that
                                             you not hate your parents],
                          but also
                               • because you may need this very parent -
                                      • symbolically and
                                      • in a displaced way -
                                             even now.
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| 17 | |
|----|---|
| | Maintaining |
| | your glorified image of a parent |
| | can also be a sign |
| | that he or she |
| | may have been the source |
| | of the only |
| | • love, |
| | • acceptance, and |
| | • security |
| | you have ever known. |
| | Therefore, |
| | to your unconscious mind |
| | giving up |
| | the glorified image of the parent |
| | is tantamount to |
| | losing all the |
| | • love, |
| | acceptance, and |
| | • security |
| | you have ever known. |
| | By devaluating |
| | the parent |
| | you rob yourself of |
| | the only value |
| | you possess. |
| | No wonder you resist |
| | revising |
| | your [one-sided fixed] image of your parents. |
| 18 | |
| | By the same token, |
| | you may have an equal interest in |
| | holding on to |
| | a hated image. |
| | Why would you want to do that? |
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It [i.e., holding onto a fixed hated image of one or both of your parents]
    may be
        your very protection against
            yourself.
If the parent
    remains
         bad in your eyes,
            then the
                • slight and
                • hurt
                   he or she has inflicted on you
                        becomes nullified,
                           as it were.
You fear -
    erroneously of course -
        that
            if you
                accept the parent's humanity
                   and therefore
                       let go of
                          your insistence
                               that the hurt inflicted on you
                                  was unjust
                                      in the extreme [and had nothing to do with
                                          your being deserving of the hurt in some
                                         sense, and thereby denying any possible
                                         shortcomings or "badness" in you as a real
                                         human being],
            your own value
                will be diminished [because you will then have to accept
                                      some of your own real human "badness"].
There are also
    other ways
         of holding onto
            the hate;
                they [i.e., these other ways of holding onto the hate of your parents]
                   • have to be found and

    experienced

                       by each one of you
                           in your individual work.
```

```
19
              It is so much easier
                  for the child in you
                       to have
                          everything
                              well ordered.
              A reality,
                  • which is [inherently]
                       • flexible and
                       • contradictory,
                  • for which [inherently]
                       there are
                          no fixed rules,
              is something
                  the child in you
                       would rather
                          not cope with.
              So it may seem much easier [to the child in you]
                  to cling to
                      your fixed impressions,
                          where
                              each person
                                 fits into a niche.
              Each impression
                  becomes then
                       a static image,
                          which gives you
                              a certain unreal
                                 sense of
                                      • order and
                                      • security.
                                      You think you
                                         know
                                             where you are.
              However,
                  the price you pay
                      for this
                          precarious
                              • order and
                              • security
                                 is so much bigger
                                      than what you can even try to estimate now.
```

```
20
              When you begin to
                   revise
                       your impressions of
                          people in your early environment
                               because you want to
                                  • see them with a mature attitude and
                                  • understand them in their reality,
                                      you may find a certain
                                          • fear and
                                          • resistance
                                              to do so.
              Focus on it [i.e., focus on your fear, your resistance to see with a mature attitude
                                                     your parents in their reality],
                   and realize
                       its [i.e., realize your fear's, your resistance's] significance.
              Understand
                   that the resistance [to seeing your parents in their reality]
                       is the very indication
                          that in it [i.e., in your resistance to seeing your parents in their reality]
                               lies a

    deep and

                                  • important
                                      key to
                                          • your life and
                                          • many of its problems
                                              you probably never thought
                                                 could have
                                                      any connection whatsoever.
              Only after
                  you come to terms with
                       your resistance
                          by
                               • strengthening and
                               • fortifying
                                      your will, and
                          by asking in
                               • prayer and
                               • meditation
                                  to see the truth about your parents,
                                       will your resistance [to seeing the truth about your parents]
                                          gradually weaken.
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There is
                   no better way
                       to pray
                          than using your current
                               • resistances and
                               • stumbling blocks
                                  in a most specific way.
21
              Psychological work
                   is simply finding out
                       the truth
                          about
                               • yourself and
                               • others.
              I have pointed out to you many times that
                  you cannot see the truth
                       • in others
                   if you do not see the truth
                       • in yourself.
              At certain stages on this path, however,
                   after
                       • a certain amount of truth
                          about yourself
                               has been brought to consciousness,
                       • truth must also be approached
                          from the other side.
                               That other side
                                  is the desire
                                      to see the truth
                                         about
                                              • others,

    your parents and

                                              • siblings,
                                                 for instance.
              This [seeing the truth about your parents and others]
                   is another way
                       to gain more truth
                          about yourself.
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The desire
                   to see the truth about others -
                       their
                          • lives and

    personalities

                               in their whole dimension -
                                  will give you
                                      • insight and

    understanding

                                         about
                                              • your own life and
                                              • all that
                                                 • governs you,
                                                 • paralyzes you, and
                                                 • puts you in conflict even now.
                                      Needless to say,
                                         this understanding [about the lives of your parents
                                                     and of others, understanding that gives you
                                                     the needed understanding about your own life]
                                              is the prerequisite
                                                 to your ending
                                                     these unproductive patterns.
22
              Your next thought may very well be:
                   This [gaining understanding about the truth concerning my parents and others]
                       is easily said,
                          but not easily done.
              Apart from
                  your own resistance [against gaining this necessary understanding
                                                                    about your parents],
              you may not have
                   the necessary
                       • information and

    knowledge

                          about
                               • parents or
                               • parent figures
                                  to revise
                                      your image.
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They may be dead,
    and even if they are still living,
         and you can contact them,
            there may be
                certain things
                   you cannot possibly
                       discuss with them.
So [in the face of your parents' inaccessibility]
    how can you
         • revise your image and
         • correct your falsified impressions?
If you
    truly wish to do so,
        you will succeed;
            of this you can be sure.
You may find a way
    to learn more about them,
         with an entirely new attitude.
You may seek out a contact
    that will reveal
         certain information about
            • their lives, and
            • other aspects of their personalities
                you have never
                   • seen or
                   · known,
                       so that
                           they become
                               more human
                                  for you.
Eventually,
    after you have freed yourself to some degree
         of the old tie [i.e., the tie to the EITHER "all good" OR "all bad" aspects],
           you may even bring yourself
                to communicate,
                   in a spirit of truth,
                        with a still living member of your family
                           with whom
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you might never have considered communicating.

```
By trying to understand
                  their
                       problems,
                          your own hurts
                              are bound to diminish.
                              First, however,
                                 you may have to become aware
                                      that a hurt exists.
23
              What if the parents are
                  no longer alive?
                       Often there may be someone still near you
                          who might have
                              a different slant [from yours]
                                 to complete the picture for you,
                                      even by adding
                                         his or her own,
                                             but different,
                                                distortion
                                                     to the whole picture.
                                             It may be
                                                • a sibling,
                                                • another relative, or
                                                • a friend.
              But in addition to this,
                  you need
                       still another approach,
                          so you will have
                              the courage
                                 to take the necessary steps [needed to understand your parents
                                                                           in their wholeness].
              This [other] approach is
                  the sincere will
                       to know.
                          manifested in prayer,
                              to which
                                 the answer will come.
                                      God's ways are so wonderful.
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If you are willing to
    want
        to understand
           • what made them [i.e., what made your parents]
                the way they were, and
           • what was their motivation
               for much you could never understand,
comprehension
    will come to you
        in most miraculous ways.
Even if there is
    absolutely no one left
        who knew them,
           incidents will occur to you
                that you had
                   never before
                       evaluated
                          in a true light.
Perhaps you will remember
    certain aspects of their lives
        of which you had been told,
           but which you
                • disregarded and
                • excluded
                  from your perception.
All of a sudden
    these incidents
        will take on a new meaning,
           enabling you
                to evaluate their personalities
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in a different way, with the

detachment and

of one uninvolved human being

toward another.

• objectivity

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As you begin this process [of discovering who your parents were through prayer
                              and meditation, truly wanting to know your parents],
                  your entire outlook
                       will gradually change.
              The facts
                  of your experience
                       will not be eliminated,
                          but
                              the experience
                                 will take on
                                     a different meaning
                                        and thus [i.e., by the experience taking on
                                                                          a different meaning]
                                            set you free.
24
              However,
                  right now
                      you have to be aware of
                          • what you feel,
                          • how you experience your parents, and
                          • how you have been hurt [by your parents],
                              although on the surface
                                 you may have
                                     a veneer of indifference [toward seeing these truths].
              The
                  desire
                       to see the truth
                          has to be cultivated.
              Determine first
                  whether or not
                      you
                          inwardly
                              desire the truth.
```

```
As long as
                  you reject a truth -
                       any truth -
                          you will be
                              in bondage to

    confusion and

                                  • unreality.
              You do
                  not have to
                       force the issue,
              but
                  in an organic way
                       your resistance [to seeing the truth about your parents]
                          will weaken,
                              provided
                                 you do not
                                      keep pushing the matter away.
              If you can
                  acknowledge to yourself
                       • that you
                          wish to maintain
                              a falsified picture and
                       • that you
                          do not wish
                              to know the truth,
                                      the rest will come by itself.
25
              If you say,
                       • "I cannot find out,"
              ask yourself
                  whether you do not really mean,
                       • "I do not want to."
              Even if you think you cannot [be open to the desire to understand the truth],
                  make yourself
                       wholly open
                           for the desire
                              to understand the truth.
```

| Without truth, there cannot be love. And without love, there cannot be truth. | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| there cannot be love. And without love, | |
| And without love, | |
| · | |
| there cannot be truth. | |
| | |
| | |
| 26 | |
| Try this | |
| new approach, | |
| and | |
| • your life, | |
| • your problems, | |
| • your relationships | |
| will take on | |
| a new meaning, | |
| my friends. | |
| 27 | |
| Are there any questions regarding this subject? | |
| | |
| QUESTION: | |
| When parents give the child an | |
| • unreal, or perhaps | |
| • real, | |
| feeling of rejection, | |
| the child feels | |
| unworthy of love | |
| and therefore establishes | |
| a pattern of self-rejection. | |
| How does one work through this, | |
| even if one sees one's parents in reality? | |
| | |
| 28 | |
| ANSWER: | |
| It [i.e., working through this experience and coming to undersa | tand the truth] happens |
| • naturally and | |
| • by itself. | |
| The moment you understand your parents, | |
| the sense of rejection | |
| will disappear, | |
| even if they were cruel to you. | |
| | |

```
In understanding
    what
         made them cruel,
            you will see it [i.e., see their cruelty] as
                their problem,
and you will -
    perhaps for the first time
         in
            • truth and
            • reality –
                know that this [i.e., that their cruelty]
                   had nothing to do with
                       your own worth.
So far
    you know this [i.e., you know that their cruelty had nothing
                                      to do with your unworthiness]
         in your
            intellect only;
                emotionally
                   you will
                       feel unworthy
                           as long as
                               you feel that
                                  your parents rejected you
                                      because of
                                         your unworthiness.
Due to
    this [emotional] sense of unworthiness,
         you are unable
            to establish
                constructive patterns
                   that will give you reason
                        to feel secure
                           in yourself
                               now.
```

```
The destructive patterns
                  constantly
                       confirm
                          your unworthiness.
              You are thus
                  unable to get out of them [i.e., get out of your destructive patterns]
                          the basic understanding
                              that your parents'
                                 • real or
                                 • imagined
                                      rejection of you
                                         had nothing to do with your worthiness
                                             is reached.
29
              In the
                  child's perception,
                       the parents are
                          powerful super-creatures.
              It does not occur
                  to the child
                       that they [i.e., the parents]
                          are [in reality not super-creatures but normal]
                              human beings
                                 • groping
                                      to solve their own problems and
                                 • struggling
                                      with their own
                                         puzzlement about life.
              When this truth [that the parents are struggling human beings]
                 is recognized
                       through
                          real inner understanding,
              the sense of
                  their rejection of you [assumed because of their cruelty toward you]
                       must disappear.
```

```
It may have happened frequently
    in your life
        that
            • you first felt
                • rejected or
                • slighted, and
            • later
                through a variety of circumstances
                   you became aware of
                       certain elements
                           in the situation [i.e., the situation that at first
                                      had caused you to feel rejected]
                               you had previously ignored.
The moment
    you realized
         the significance of these [newly recognized elements in this situation],
           you no longer
                felt rejected.
                You understood
                   that they [i.e., that these newly recognized elements in
                                      this situation that had made you feel rejected]
                        had nothing to do with
                           • you and
                           • your worth.
The facts
    remained the same,
         but you no longer interpreted them
            in the
                same
                   • personal,
                   • self-diminishing
                        way.
```

```
30
              It is exactly the same
                  with your parents.
              The moment you
                  experience them
                       in their living reality -
                          at fault, surely,
                              but
                                 now
                                      understood in their dynamics -
                                         the
                                             • impression and

    reaction

                                                must change
                                                    in you.
              This does
                  not
                       mean you have to
                          • understand them completely, or
                          • know everything about them.
                              One never does,
                                 even about people one is close to.
              But
                  with your new understanding
                       you destroy the
                          • limited,
                          • rigid,
                          • robot-like
                              image
                                 in which you
                                      emotionally
                                         experience
                                             them.
                                             Then they [i.e., your parents] become alive.
              You will
                  understand
                       at least some of
                          their difficulties [in life].
```

```
You will see that they [i.e., that your parents]
                  could
                       not
                          have acted
                              any other way,
                                  considering
                                      who they were at the time -
                                        just as you
                                             could not have acted otherwise in the past,
                                                although you may
                                                     now
                                                        recognize your error.
              The moment
                  you have this understanding [of your parents],
                       the original rejection by them
                          will no longer
                              cause you
                                  to reject yourself [thinking that, because of their rejection,
                                                                           you are of no value].
31
              Your question is important.
              However,
                  in the last analysis,
                       the only way
                          at one stage of your development
                              to heal
                                  this self-rejection
                                      is to know
                                         beyond a shadow of doubt
                                             that it was
                                                never
                                                    you
                                                        who was rejected [by your parents].
```

```
The hurt inflicted upon you [by your parents when your were a child],
                   due to their
                       • blindness.
                       • irresponsibility, and
                       • undiscovered powerful currents of
                          • frustration and
                          • hurt,
                               had absolutely
                                  nothing
                                      to do with
                                         you,
                                              but was a result of their
                                                 • groping,
                                                 • pathetic,
                                                 • human
                                                     struggle to live
                                                        which,
                                                             when viewed from
                                                                the larger picture
                                                                    of human development,
                                                                       seems so valiant.
              Do you understand?
32
              QUESTION:
              I understand.
              Still,
                   when
                       a child
                          • is set in this
                               pattern of
                                  self-rejection and
                          • has lived his life in this way,
                               he is
                                  • twisted and
                                  • distorted,
                                      and loves
                                         • the rejection
                                      rather than
                                         • the love.
              The mere fact of recognizing [the human reality of] one's parents
                   will not resolve this kind of conflict.
```

ANSWER:

I do not say this [one answer I gave] is the only answer.

There is never just one solution.

You have learned many other aspects of this pathwork that are of equal importance – and they all have to be experienced.

If

self-rejection
 can be cured by
 other insights, and
destructive patterns
 changed to
 constructive ones,
 so much the better.

I still say, however, that
distortion of truth [as here with the distortion of the truth
about the human reality of your parents]

affects you, and therefore

it [i.e., the distortion about who the parents were when you were a child]

ought to be remedied.

For the very problem you cite [i.e., the problem of feeling unlovable and subsequent self-rejection],

this topic [i.e., the topic of looking at the human reality of your parents] is a most essential one.

The moment you
experience
the important people
of your early environment
in their human reality,
you will no longer
need to practice
self-rejection.

You were attached to it [i.e., attached to feeling unworthy and hence self-rejection] only because the child in you believed there was nothing else [possible but unworthiness and subsequent self-rejection]. But the moment you perceive that you were not rejected because you were unworthy, you no longer have to cherish your self-rejection. Do you understand? 34 **QUESTIONER:** I will try. ANSWER: Yes, you have to try. You see, there is often such a strong resistance to knowing the reality in this respect [i.e., in respect to your parents]. Your "this would not help my problem" is one form of resistance and amounts to saying, "I have no way of gaining understanding about my parents."

```
I tell you,
    even if you now believe
         it [i.e., if you now believe that understanding the truth about your parents]
            will not help you
                in this or that particular problem,
                   approach it
                        in a spirit of truth.
In your prayers, say,
     "Even if I do not understand
         why it will help me,
            I just want
                to see the truth
                    as far as I am capable of it."
If you work toward the
    • understanding [of the truth about your parents] and
    • recognition of your resistance
         to removing this wall [that keeps you from seeing
                                  the truth about your parents],
            you will soon
                see for yourself
                    what it [i.e., what understanding the truth about your parents]
                        will do for you.
You do not even
    have to understand intellectually
         now
            how this [understanding of the truth about your parents]
                could change
                   your self-rejection.
Just approach it [i.e., approach finding the truth in this matter]
   from
         the spirit
            of truth -
                [here] truth about
                    the people
                        who happen to have been your parents.
```

```
35
              QUESTION:
              Would you care to elaborate on
                  the psychological aspect
                      of the fourth commandment
                              [i.e., "Honor your father and your mother ..."]?
              ANSWER:
              Yes.
              As usual,
                  there are many levels of interpretation,
                      but I assume you brought this up
                         in connection with our topic.
              The fourth commandment
                  is so often misunderstood,
                      and much harm has come
                         from these
                              • misunderstandings and
                              • superficial interpretations.
              In this case,
                  • forcing [one to honor his or her parents] and
                  • [feeling] guilt [for not fully obeying the fourth commandment]
                      make
                         • love and
                         • honor
                              into something
                                 compulsive
                                     that destroys
                                        • real understanding
                                            and subsequently
                                               • real love and
                                               • [real] honor.
              In blindness [about who your parents really were],
                  you cannot

    respect and

                      • love
                         when
                              almost all you see
                                 may be undeserving
                                     of such
                                        • love and
                                        • respect.
```

```
When you
                  squash
                       the early impressions of the parents
              and [then]
                  superimpose
                       • artificial,
                       • compulsive
                          • love and
                          • honor,
              you are
                  even further from
                      true
                          • love and
                          • respect.
              However, the
                  real
                       meaning [of the fourth commandment]
                          is exactly what I have said [in this lecture].
              See the truth [of who your parents really were].
              When you do so [i.e., when you see the truth of who someone really is, by that act]
                  you
                       respect
                          the basic human being in everyone,
                              regardless of
                                 their many

    aberrations and

                                     • blindnesses.
36
              QUESTION:
              But how long will it take
                  for humanity
                       to derive
                          the real meaning
                              of the fourth commandment?
              We usually have to learn
                  for a whole lifetime
                       in order to correct such
                          • mistakes or
                          • distortions.
```

```
37
              ANSWER:
              How long will it take
                  for people
                       to correct
                          any distortion of truth,
                               • not only
                                  of this particular one,
                                  of any other divine truth
                                       that has reached humanity?
              Any truth
                   can be distorted,
                       you know that.
              When humanity
                   has progressed sufficiently in its development,
                       this [distortion of truths]
                          will no longer happen.
              In order to
                  get to this place [of sufficient development so that
                               distortion of a particular truth will no longer happen],
                       the error [in the particular distortion]
                          has to be

    recognized and

                               · dissolved.
              Self-awareness
                   must increase
                       and then [with this self-awareness],
                          little by little,
                               the distortions [of various truths]
                                  will vanish.
              You seem to believe that
                   the distortions
                       have to disappear [first]
                          before
                               vou can
                                  develop awareness.
```

| | It is just the opposite [i.e., the awareness of truth has to come first, |
|----|--|
| | then, with awareness, the distortions will disappear]: |
| | the distortions exist |
| | because of |
| | your relatively low level of awareness. |
| | your relatively low level of awareness. |
| | As such, |
| | the distortions themselves |
| | contain the remedy, |
| | |
| | for without them |
| | you could not |
| | come to perceive truth. |
| | I said this so often, and I say it again. |
| 38 | |
| | From a |
| | spiritual point of view, |
| | which is our vantage point, |
| | one person |
| | who gains inner truth |
| | in the sense of this pathwork |
| | has |
| | |
| | an infinitely greater influence on |
| | the entire cosmic development |
| | than do |
| | millions of people in error. |
| | This may sound like |
| | an incredible statement, |
| | yet it is utter truth, |
| | · |
| | my friends. |
| 39 | |
| | QUESTION: |
| | Just a comment in connection with our friend's question of |
| | how long it will take [for people to really derive the true meaning of |
| | the fourth commandment]. |
| | me journ communaments. |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

I have lived with children in neighborhoods where I saw delinquent parents, who were • fallen, or • drunkards, yet the children had reverence for them, through acceptance and • understanding. And [conversely] I have seen children from well-kept homes who were pampered, but did not have such understanding. 40 ANSWER: Of course this is possible. An otherwise delinquent parent may have a special quality to give the child something it needs. Also, the child may have been born free of this particular problem so that, • organically and • naturally, it perceives the truth. No distortion exists here.

But it is also possible that such reverence is • unhealthy and • false. *If it* [i.e., if such reverence] comes from • fear, • guilt, or • wanting to appease so as to be protected, then that has nothing to do with the real understanding [of the real humanity of the parents] we are talking about. 41 Do not begin by trying to • love and honor what seems impossible for you now. [Rather] **Begin** by simply wanting to • understand [the real humanity of the parents]. The rest will take care of itself. **Such understanding** [of the real humanity of the parents] may often come much later in life. Then, **after understanding** [the real humanity of the parents] has been gained, the sting of • fear, • resentment, • self-negation, and • self-rejection will vanish.

| | And that is the |
|----|--|
| | real |
| | • honor and |
| | • love |
| | that |
| | one human being |
| | can have for another, |
| | no matter |
| | how erring |
| | the other person may be. |
| 42 | |
| 42 | QUESTION: |
| | I have a question from a friend who is absent. |
| | The need for |
| | pseudo-protection |
| | originates in |
| | the creation of an image. |
| | Can this need [for pseudo-protection] |
| | still persist |
| | after the image has been dissolved, |
| | and thereby |
| | contribute to |
| | the creation |
| | of a new image? |
| 43 | |
| | ANSWER: |
| | Of course this can happen; |
| | this is what often happens in |
| | • faulty or |
| | • insufficient |
| | psychological treatment. |
| | • Certain levels [of consciousness] |
| | are reached, |
| | • certain patterns |
| | dissolved, |
| | but one does not go deeper. |
| | |
| | |
| | |

```
[After a certain level of psychological work]
    One leaves well enough alone [and stops the work before the deeper levels
                of consciousness needed to dissolve the root issue are reached],
         and therefore
            the root,
                 which remains embedded,
                    may create
                        another destructive
                           • pattern or
                           • image.
So it is always a question of
    the right procedure:
         get to the roots
            slowly but surely
                on the next level [of consciousness].
         • Then [when the roots of the matter are addressed at the next level],
            of course,
                this pattern will be

    stopped and

                    • prevented from ever recurring;
         • then a
            • constructive,
            • realistic
                pattern
                    can be established and
            • the love channel
                can open.
There is no more
    need for defenses;
         the individual
            is open
                 • to life,
                • to living,
                • to loving.
```

```
44
              QUESTION:
              Could you comment on
                  the Lord's Prayer,
                       particularly the words,
                          "Thy will be done
                              on earth
                                 as it is
                                     in heaven"?
              Could you tell us what
                  • "on earth" and
                  • "in heaven"
                       mean?
              ANSWER:
              • Earth and
              • heaven
                  are not
                       geographical descriptions
                          of
                              life
                                 here and now,
                      nor
                          of
                              the life
                                 to come in the hereafter.
              They mean
                  levels of your personality,
                       which automatically include
                          any state of life -
                              • the physical as well as
                              • the nonphysical.
              The symbol for
                  earth
                       might be interpreted in many ways:
                          earth may be
                              • your outer life,
                              • the material life,
                              • physical life,
                              • physical
                                 • actions and
                                 • outer facts;
                          in short,
                              • everything visible.
```

```
For
    earth
         is visible for you,
while
    heaven
         is invisible.
The symbol of
    heaven,
         therefore, is
            all that which cannot be
                • seen or
                • perceived
                    with the outer senses.
It [i.e., heaven] means
    • vour
         inner

    actions and

            • reactions,
    • your
         • thoughts and
         • feelings,
    • your
         • motivations,
    • vour
         • soul and
         • spirit.
It [i.e., heaven] means the
    • psychological,
    • emotional, and
    • spiritual
         levels of your being -
            those which cannot be seen.
You may
    act outwardly
         in the right way,
but inwardly
    the motivations may be
         • selfish,
         • vain,
         • unloving, and
         · cowardly.
```

```
One may
                   • conform to
                       all the [external]
                          • rules and
                          • regulations
                               of
                                  • Church,
                                  • society, and
                                  • public opinion, and
                   • be faultless in
                       [outer] conduct,
              but
                   whatever goes on in the soul
                       may be
                          very opposite
                               to divine law.
                       That place [i.e., whatever goes on inwardly in the soul]
                          is
                               • heaven,
                               • the kingdom within
                                  of which Christ spoke.
45
              If you
                   • are inwardly pure,
                   • are inwardly open, and
                   • inwardly fulfill the will of God,
                       perhaps sometimes at the expense of
                          outer approval from society,
                               • you are
                                  • being true to yourself,
                          then
                               • you have the
                                  • integrity,
                                  • courage, and
                                  • humility
                                       to stand up for what you really believe,
                          [and]
                               • you are
                                  • doing the will of God.
```

```
If you ask for
                  this [inward condition of purity, openness, and doing the will of God within]
                       in your prayer,
                         fully aware
                              that this may be what He wants from you,
              then you
                  do the will of God
                       • in heaven,
                  and automatically also
                       • on earth.
46
              QUESTION:
              In this connection,
                  is it not rather significant that
                       the first seven words of Genesis, in Hebrew,
                          contain the words
                              • "heaven"
                            and
                              • "earth"
                                     just as in the Lord's Prayer?
              An interpretation of the word
                  heaven,
                       [in Hebrew,] haShomayim,
                          shows it is composed of
                              the words that mean
                                 • fire
                                and
                                 • water.
              Can you tie this together?
47
              ANSWER:
              Yes.
              Primitive humanity
                  always took everything
                      literally,
                          and still does.
```

```
Only through
    development
         will humanity
           see the deeper meaning
                which will make so much more sense.
The meanings of fire are:
    the fire of
        • life,
         • living,
         • loving,
         • enthusiasm,
         • healthy activity,
         • spiritual endeavor,
         • courage,
         • conviction one stands up for,
         • strength that makes life a meaningful adventure.
Water
    represents
        the emotions:
            • the flow,
           • the state of being,
            • a healthy passivity.
Both
    healthy
         • activity –
           fire –
and
    healthy
         • passivity –
            water –
                are processes of
                       purification.
```

```
Both
                  • fire
              and
                  • water
                      can be
                         cleansing processes,
              and both
                  are needed
                      for an
                         • integrated,
                         • healthy
                             life.
              Both
                  are forces in the universe,
                      which you
                         • tap, or
                         • tune into,
                             by establishing
                                truth
                                    in your soul.
              The combination of
                  these two forces [i.e., fire and water]
                      brings you
                         into harmony
                             with the state of
                                being
                                     which would mean
                                        heaven.
48
              QUESTION:
              Could you talk about
                  masochism?
             ANSWER:
              This has been
                  • discussed in previous lectures and
                  • looked at in our work.
```

```
If
    • the entirety of the lectures
         is understood, and
    • the method of our work [i.e., our pathwork]
         is followed through,
            you will
                automatically
                    understand the tendency of
                        self-rejection
                           called masochism.
To recapitulate briefly,
    I would say that
         self-rejection
            may
                in some personality structures
                   create a
                        more active process of
                          [self-rejection that is called] masochism.
Self-rejection
    in itself
         is masochistic.
                But it is a question of degree.
As I have said before,
    if
         • the sense of one's unworthiness
     is stronger than
         • the corresponding healthy forces,
            the only pleasure
                derived from living
                   is found in pain.
I still do
    not mean
         physical masochism;
            it [i.e. masochism]
                may manifest
                    only on a psychic level,
                        and never physically.
When it does manifest physically,
    it is in a very advanced state.
```

```
49
              Since
                  pain through rejection
                       seems
                          the only certain thing
                               that one can rely on,
                                  one
                                      • clings to it [i.e., clings to pain through rejection] and
                                      • does not want to give it up.
                                              Healthy pleasure
                                                 seems
                                                     hopelessly unattainable.
              In other words,
                   masochism
                       is
                          a giving up.
              If the ego
                   is too weak
                       to prove the world wrong,
                          as it were –
              if the person
                   is unable
                       to assert
                          his right to
                               • live.
                               • love, and to
                               • have pleasure -
                                  masochism is the result.
               The world
                   seems to
                       deny your right of
                          selfhood,
                               and you give in,
                                  agreeing with the world,
                                      and make pleasure
                                         out of pain
                                              in a very
                                                 · wrong,
                                                 • unhealthy,
                                                 • self-defeating, and
                                                 • life-defeating
                                                     way.
```

• Giving in and going with the stream, as well as • fighting, are healthy processes, but both can be distorted. 50 Many other elements, too numerous to consider now, are also present [in masochism]. **This core** [of clinging to the pain of self-rejection as the only way to be in life] can, however, always be found [in masochism]. Until this core can be experienced through extensive self-finding, rather than just listening to my words describing a concept, many other levels have to be explored. On more superficial levels you will find that self-punishment is due to guilt. *The self-destructiveness* [or self-punishment, that is, masochism] derives from • a certain inability to cope with problems, or • the inner desire not to cope with them.

```
All the processes
                  of the images
                       we have

    discussed and

                          • found
                              are really
                                 processes
                                      of masochism,
              because
                  the images,
                       whose patterns
                          embody
                              a negative tenet
                                  that produces a painful result,
                                      are
                                         inherently
                                            self-destructive.
              If this [i.e., if this process of such images leading to an inherently painful
                                                                   and self-destructive result]
                  is enjoyed
                       on some level of the psyche,
                          then we are dealing with
                              masochism,
                                  no matter
                                      how unaware of the
                                         • enjoyment or
                                         • satisfaction
                                             one may be.
51
              The real answer [to the question concerning the causes of masochism]
                  can never be found
                       in concepts,
                          no matter how true.
```

```
Such concepts [, even if true,]
    may be
         helpful indicators
            to open the way
                so that you may
                   experience
                       the truth yourself,
                           but this [i.e., but this being a pointer toward truth]
                               is all they [i.e., this is all even truthful concepts]
                                  can be.
That is why so often
    when questions of this sort are asked,
         there is a feeling of
            • letdown and
            • disappointment
                with the answer.
One
    expects
         liberation
           from the [intellectual] answer -
                and no [merely verbal, theoretical, or conceptual] answer
                   can ever give
                       inner
                           liberation.
Inner liberation
    can come only from
         experiencing
            these words
                as truth -
and this [experiencing these words as truth]
    can happen only as a result of
         breaking through
           your inner resistance
                step by step.
Your path
    will
         always
            lead exactly
                to where you resist most.
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If you have the courage to
                   • face this [place that you resist the most] and
                   • cope with it,
                       you can indeed
                          shorten the process.
              However [, and conversely], if you
                   • shy away from going there [i.e., if you shy away from
                                                     going to that place you resist the most],
                       you are bound to
                          make detours [trying to get around this place you most resist],
                               and have to come back to
                                  this point of [greatest] resistance
                                      at a later time.
              Perhaps by then
                   the resistance [against the process of facing and coping with this resistance]
                       will have given way,
                          since the
                               unnecessary pain
                                  you encounter
                                      when you are
                                         not in the process [of facing and coping
                                                                    with this resistance]
                                              will weaken it [i.e., will weaken the resistance].
52
              So again I say to you, my friends,
                   examine where
                       you find resistance
                          accompanied by
                               the desire
                                  to avoid
                                      looking at it [i.e., to avoid looking at the resistance].
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That [point where you find resistance and find resistance to look at the resistance]
                       • the very point,
                       • the very threshold
                          you must step through
                              at one time or another
                                 before
                                     you can become free to
                                         • unclog the love channel and
                                         • live a productive life
                                             in which you
                                                • feel useful and
                                                • know
                                                    that yours [i.e. that your part
                                                                          in God's universe]
                                                       is a meaningful part.
              Only by
                  tackling
                       what you
                          most
                              want to shy away from
                                 will you find
                                      the door
                                         behind which
                                             lies the answer.
                                                    I cannot emphasize this strongly enough.
53
              QUESTION:
              In connection with this,
                  I have found that
                       I have always shied away from
                          sex.
              And I have further discovered that
                  I feel it [i.e. I feel sex]
                       is a
                          crime.
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As I went deeper,
                  I discovered that,
                       in reality,
                          sex is
                              pleasure.
              So I found that
                  for me
                       pleasure is
                          a crime.
              And so, all along,
                  I have sabotaged
                       • pleasure and
                       • joy.
              Now
                  although I
                       • see this and
                       • know it,
                          I don't know
                              what to do about it.
              Can you give me a hint?
54
              ANSWER:
              Yes, my dear.
              I believe the next step
                  will give you the answer
                       [to the question of] why
                          you have rejected pleasure [including the pleasure in sex].
              You will then find that
                  you reject
                       • pleasure
              because
                  you reject
                       • yourself.
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I repeat that
                   the knowledge [of this truth that you reject yourself] alone
                        will not be sufficient [to resolve this matter and stop the self-rejection],
                           [rather,] it [i.e., rather, this truth that you reject yourself] has to be
                               experienced
                                   in your
                                       emotions.
               The continuation of this work [i.e., the continuation of this pathwork]
                   will finally
                        bring you
                           this awareness [i.e., will bring you this emotional experience of this
                                                      truth that you reject yourself, and hence,
                                                      emotional awareness of this truth].
55
              Now,
                   why
                        do you reject yourself?
               The answer will derive partly from
                   recognitions
                       you have already made,
                           which you will then tie up
                               with this new understanding.
               Your rejection of
                   • happiness,
                   • joy,
                   • pleasure,
                   • life, and
                   • love
              is in reality just a rejection of
                   • vourself.
               This is exactly
                   what I discussed tonight.
              Begin to investigate
                   what kind of human beings
                       your parents were,
                           as well as
                               others in your family.
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56
              QUESTION:
             In seeking to communicate
                  we must resort to
                      words, of course,
                         and unless we get to
                             the meaning of them,
                                they [i.e., the words]
                                     are lost.
              The word
                  masochism
                      was used.
                      Along with it
                         comes the opposite term of
                             sadism.
             Modern schools of psychology
                  rather use the word
                       "algolagnia" [which is sometimes defined as sadomasochism]
                         to refer to
                             both
                                 • sadism
                             and
                                 • masochism,
                                     calling
                                        • one positive,
                                        • the other negative.
              How do you regard this?
57
              ANSWER:
              This is perfectly true.
              There cannot be one
                  without the other.
                      Both are
                         one current
                             of
                                inflicting pain.
```

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The so-called sadistic person
    inflicts pain
         on others
            as a
                protection for the self -
                    a pseudo-protection of course.
At times,
    the very same person
         may find it
            against his interest
                to do so [i.e., against his interest to inflict pain on others].
He may then [i.e., he may when he inflicts pain on others]
    • come into conflict with his surroundings; or
he may find it to his disadvantage because he
    • fears losing the person he needs,
         whose
            • love and
            • protection
                he wants.
So [because it is disadvantageous to inflict pain on others]
    he will
         invert this force
            that exists in him
                due to
                    unresolved negative tensions.
He cannot simply
    dispense with it [i.e., cannot simply dispense with this force]
         at will,
            something has to happen with it [i.e., has to happen with this force] -
                either
                    it goes out
                        to another person,
                or
                   he directs it
                        to himself.
```

```
Only
                  the dissolution of this force
                       will stop
                               • the sadistic
                            and
                               • the masochistic
                                  current.
58
              So these two forces
                   are really
                       one and the same.
                       The only difference
                          lies in the direction.
              In what direction they are used
                   makes very little difference,
                       in the last analysis,
                          because
                               • if
                                  you hurt someone else,
                                      you must eventually hurt
                                         yourself.
                               • And if
                                  you hurt yourself,
                                      you must eventually hurt
                                         someone else.
              This is so
                   because
                       this current [to inflict pain on yourself or on another]
                          derives
                               out of blindness,
                                  and it must
                                      make
                                          vou
                                              blind.
```

```
Since this current [to inflict pain on yourself or on another]
                   derives
                       from a lack of understanding [i.e., lack of understanding in you
                                                                            from your blindness]
                           it will cause
                               you
                                  to lose
                                      vour own
                                          capacity
                                              to understand.
               The only difference
                   is in timing -
                        who is affected first [i.e., in sadism, the other is affected first, and you
                               are hurt secondarily by losing your capacity to understand, and in
                               masochism you are affected first and the other is affected secondarily
                               through your blind behavior toward the other, a blindness that is
                               increased by your masochism].
                                       The secondary reaction [to oneself or to the other]
                                              is then a delayed one.
59
              Psychology
                   has used certain terms
                       to describe
                           this infliction of pain.
              Spiritually
                   it is absolutely true
                        that there is
                           this current of
                               cruelty,
                                  and no matter
                                       toward whom it is directed in the first place,
                                          it takes its toll
                                              eventually
                                                  on all concerned.
              It is very shortsighted to believe that
                   • masochism
                       indicates a better character trend
              than
                   • sadism.
```

60 I bless • each and every one of you, and • all my other friends everywhere. • May you perceive deep in your heart and • mind what I said to you tonight, and • may it give you courage and • strength to pass through the closed door within yourself, so as to gain • light, • safety, • freedom, and • a productive life. It [i.e., all that I said to you tonight leading you to the courage to pass through the closed door within thereby enabling you to gain light, safety, freedom, and a productive life] is right there for the asking, so much closer than you think. All you have to do is • extend your hand and • relinquish your old pseudo-safeties. Be in peace. Be in God!

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